

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A method of processing messages, comprising:

receiving an electronic mail message by a computer;

determining whether a content of the received message is for a user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached image printing device associated with the computer by detecting a characteristic of the message, the attached image printing device ~~being a business office device~~ including a processor;

transmitting a communication from the computer to the attached image printing device, if the determining step determines that the received message is ~~not~~ for the image printing device-user; and

operating the processor of the attached image printing device in response to the communication.

2. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining whether the received message includes instructions for operating the image printing device or whether the received message has the user of the computer as an end recipient.

3. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

displaying, after the receiving step, a message to the user indicating the electronic mail message contains information to be forwarded to the image printing device,

wherein the determining step comprises:

determining, by a user reading the displayed message, whether the received message includes instructions for operating the image printing device.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3, further comprising the step of:
executing a command which causes the step of transmitting to be performed.
5. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein the executing step comprises:
executing program code of a file which is attached to the message by a manual action
by the user.
6. (Original) A method according to claim 5, wherein the executing step comprises:
executing the program code of the file by pointing, using a pointing device and a
graphical user interface, to an object representing the file.
7. (Original) A method according to claim 6, wherein the executing step comprises:
executing the code by pressing a button while pointing to the object representing the
file.
8. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the receiving step comprises:
receiving an Internet electronic mail message.
9. (Original) A method according to claim 4, wherein:
the step of executing a command comprises transmitting information to a device
driver executing within the computer; and
the step of transmitting is performed using the device driver.
10. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, further comprising the
steps of:

receiving, by the image printing device, the communication transmitted from the computer; and

transmitting parameters from the image printing device to the computer, in response to the communication which has been received by the image printing device.

11. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of:

performing a mechanical action by the image printing device, in response to the communication which has been received by the image printing device.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 1, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining whether the message is for the user or relates to the monitoring or control of the attached image printing device automatically by detecting a characteristic of the email.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 12, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining that the message relates to the monitoring or control of the attached image printing device automatically by detecting a code within the message.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The method according to claim 13, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining that the message relates to the monitoring or control of the attached image printing device automatically by detecting the code which is the subject of the message.

15. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 13, wherein the determining step comprises:

determining that the message relates to the monitoring or control of the attached image printing device automatically by detecting the code which is in a body of the message.

16. (Original) A method according to claim 12, wherein the determining step is performed in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message.

17. (Original) A method according to claim 16, wherein the determining step is performed in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message which is detected by monitoring an existence of a file stored at a predetermined location in memory.

18. (Currently Amended) A method of transmitting, comprising:
transmitting ~~device-status information~~ state information including at least one of static, semi-static, and dynamic states of an image printing device from a the image printing device to a first computer directly attached to the image printing device, the image printing device ~~being a business office device~~ including a processor;

processing the ~~device-status~~ state information by a ~~device-driver~~ software component within the first computer; and

transmitting, by the first computer, ~~an electronic mail message including the~~ processed ~~device-status~~ state information over the Internet to a monitoring second computer;

~~wherein the device driver is configured to translate signals received from the device into signals transmitted to an email processor of the computer.~~

19. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 18, ~~further comprising~~
~~the step of wherein the transmitting step comprises:~~

~~transmitting the information from the device driver to a messaging application~~
~~programming interface (MAPI) of the computer; and~~

~~processing the information by the MAPI,~~

~~wherein the step of transmitting the electronic mail message comprises transmitting~~
~~the state information as an electronic mail message over the Internet corresponding to the~~
~~information which has been processed by the MAPI.~~

20. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim ~~18~~ 19, wherein:

the first computer is a message transfer agent,

the step of transmitting information from the image printing device comprises
transmitting the information from the image printing device directly to the first computer
which is the message transfer agent, and

the step of transmitting the electronic mail message comprises transmitting the
electronic mail message using a TCP connection from the first computer which is a message
transfer agent.

21. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim ~~18~~ 19, wherein the
processing step comprises:

creating a file corresponding to the states information; and

writing the file to a mail spool directory of the first computer, and

wherein the step of transmitting the electronic mail message comprises transmitting
the electronic mail message corresponding to the state information using the file stored in the
mail spool directory.

22. (Original) A method according to claim 21, wherein:

the step of creating and writing comprises creating a plurality of files and writing the plurality of files in the mail spool directory; and

the step of transmitting comprises transmitting the electronic mail message using each of the plurality of files stored in the mail spool directory.

23. (Currently Amended) A system for processing messages, comprising:

means, associated with a computer, for receiving an electronic mail message;

means for determining whether a content of the received message is for a user or relates to monitoring or control of an attached image printing device associated with the computer by detecting a characteristic of the message, the attached image printing device ~~being a business office device~~ including a processor;

means for transmitting a communication from the computer to the attached image printing device, if the means for determining determines that the received message is ~~not~~ for the image printing device ~~user~~; and

means for operating the processor of the attached image printing device in response to the communication.

24. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The system according to claim 23, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining whether the received message includes instructions for operating the image printing device or whether the received message has the user of the computer as an end recipient.

25. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 23, further comprising:
means for displaying a message to the user indicating the electronic mail message
contains information to be forwarded to the image printing device,
wherein the means for determining comprises:
means for determining, by a user reading the displayed message, whether the received
message includes instructions for operating the image printing device.

26. (Original) A system according to claim 25, further comprising:
means for executing a command which causes the means for transmitting to operate.

27. (Original) A system according to claim 26, wherein the means for executing
comprises:
means for executing program code of a file which is attached to the message by a
manual action by the user.

28. (Original) A system according to claim 27, wherein the means for executing
comprises:
means for executing the program code of the file by pointing, using a pointing device
and a graphical user interface, to an object representing the file.

29. (Original) A system according to claim 28, wherein the means for executing
comprises:
means for executing the code by pressing a button while pointing to the object
representing the file.

30. (Original) A system according to claim 23, wherein the means for receiving comprises:

means for receiving an Internet electronic mail message.

31. (Original) A system according to claim 26, wherein:

the means for executing a command comprises means for transmitting information to a device driver executing within the computer; and

the means for transmitting operates using the device driver.

32. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 23, further comprising:

means for receiving, by the image printing device, the communication transmitted from the computer; and

means for transmitting parameters from the image printing device to the computer, in response to the communication which has been received by the image printing device.

33. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 32, further comprising:

means for performing a mechanical action by the image printing device, in response to the communication which has been received by the image printing device.

34. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 23, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining that the message is for the user or relates to the monitoring or control of the attached image printing device automatically by detecting a characteristic of the email.

35. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 34, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining that the message relates to the monitoring or control of the attached image printing device automatically by detecting a code within the message.

36. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining comprising:

means for determining that the message relates to the monitoring or control of the attached image printing device automatically by detecting the code which is the subject of the message.

37. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining comprises:

means for determining that the message relates to the monitoring or control of the attached image printing device automatically by detecting the code which is in a body of the message.

38. (Original) A system according to claim 35, wherein the means for determining operates in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message.

39. (Original) A system according to claim 38, wherein the means for determining operates in response to a receipt of an incoming electronic mail message which is detected by monitoring an existence of a file stored at a predetermined location in memory.

40. (Currently Amended) A system of transmitting, comprising:

means for transmitting ~~device status information~~ state information including at least one of static, semi-static, and dynamic states of an image printing device from a the image printing device to a first computer directly attached to the image printing device, the image printing device being a business office device including a processor;

means for processing the ~~device status~~ state information by a ~~device driver~~ software component within the first computer; and

means for transmitting, by the first computer, ~~an electronic mail message including the processed device status~~ state information over the Internet to a monitoring second computer;

~~wherein the device driver is configured to translate signals received from the device into signals transmitted to an email processor of the computer.~~

41. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 40, further comprising:

~~means for transmitting the information from the device driver to a messaging application programming interface (MAPI) of the computer; and~~

~~means for processing the information by the MAPI,~~

~~wherein the means for transmitting the electronic mail message comprises means for transmitting the state information as an electronic mail message over the Internet corresponding to the information which has been processed by the MAPI.~~

42. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 40 41, wherein:

the first computer is a message transfer agent,

the means for transmitting information from the image printing device transmits the information from the image printing device directly to the first computer which is the message transfer agent, and

the means for transmitting the electronic mail message transmits the electronic mail message using a TCP connection from the first computer which is a message transfer agent.

43. (Currently Amended) A The system according to claim 40 41, wherein the means for processing comprises:

means for creating a file corresponding to the state information; and

means for writing the file to a mail spool directory of the first computer, and

wherein the means for transmitting the electronic mail message comprises means for transmitting the electronic mail message corresponding to the state information using the file stored in the mail spool directory.

44. (Original) A system according to claim 43, wherein:

the means for creating and writing comprises means for creating a plurality of files and writing the plurality of files in the mail spool directory; and

the means for transmitting comprises means for transmitting the electronic mail message using each of the plurality of files stored in the mail spool directory.

45. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

receiving data from the image printing device, in response to the step of operating the processor;

creating an electronic mail message by the computer including the data which has been received; and

transmitting over the Internet the electronic mail message generated by the computer.

46. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of:

executing, by a device driver of the computer, commands for at least one of controlling and monitoring the image printing device.

47. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the ~~business~~ image printing ~~office~~ device at least one of generates an image on a recording medium and scans an image on a recording medium.

48. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

transmitting the communication as a command for processing by the processor of the image printing device.

49. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 18, wherein the step of transmitting ~~the device status~~ the state information from the image printing device comprises:

transmitting the ~~device status~~ state information from the ~~business office~~ image printing device which at least one of generates an image on a recording medium and scans an image on a recording medium.

50. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 23, further comprising:
means for receiving data from the image printing device, in response to an operation of the means for operating the processor;

means for creating an electronic mail message by the computer including the data which has been received; and

means for transmitting over the Internet the electronic mail message generated by the computer.

51. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 23, further comprising:
means for executing, by a device driver of the computer, commands for at least one of controlling and monitoring the image printing device.

52. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 23, wherein the means for transmitting comprises:

means for transmitting the communication as a command for processing by the processor of the image printing device.

53. (Currently Amended) A system according to claim 40, wherein the means for transmitting the ~~device-status~~ state information from the image printing device comprises:

means for transmitting the ~~device-status~~ state information from the ~~business-office~~ image printing device which at least one of generates an image on a recording medium and scans an image on a recording medium.